



## Icebreaker

Have you ever had a friendship with someone completely unlike you? Describe the “strangest” or most “different” friend you’ve had. What made them “strange”?

Have you ever encountered racism, bigotry, or some other form of prejudice? Have you ever been on the receiving end? What about the giving end?

## Wider Friendship

What do you think of this statement?

**The wider your friendships, the deeper your grace.**

On Sunday, we read through the account of Jonah in the Bible. What stood out to you from that story? Anything new since the last time you heard it?

Read **Jonah 4:5-11**. What do you think of that? What’s the point of the vine?

Throughout the story, God is heavily involved. God sends a storm, God sends a fish, God sends a vine, God sends a worm, God sends a wind. And even though God sent Jonah to preach “against” Nineveh, the only thing God doesn’t send is judgment against that city, and that’s what Jonah’s really mad about. What do you think of **Jonah 4:1-3**?

Jonah would rather die than see blessing fall to the people of Nineveh. Jonah knows that God is compassionate and loving, and he runs away simply because he wants to keep compassion far from Nineveh. The best words for this are prejudice, bigotry, and racism. How is it that a spiritual person who is aware of God’s great love and compassion can be such a bigot? How does that happen?

Does that happen today?

## Bonus

Read **Acts 10:1-11:18**. What does that story teach about spiritual prejudice?

## Take it Home

The obvious lesson from Jonah is that God loves absolutely everyone, and the natural application is that we should intentionally widen the scope of our friendships. What does that mean for you?



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